

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: : **Koichiro HIRAO**  
Filed : **Concurrently herewith**  
For : **IMAGE ENCODING APPARATUS, .....**  
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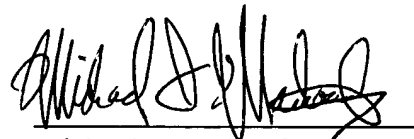
Commissioner for Patents  
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**PRIORITY CLAIM AND**  
**SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

S I R:

Applicant hereby claims priority under 35 USC 119 from **Japanese** patent application number **2002-206217** filed **July 15, 2002**, a copy of which will follow.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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